

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:SEWARD/ISA/NESA:APRADOS

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

DOD/ISA/NESA - MR. NOYES

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

PM/SAS - MR. LADD

S/S - MR. LUERS

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R 130032Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T STATE 125458

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, JO

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE

REF: AMMAN 3001

1. WE AGREE WITH YOUR ASSUMPTION THAT JORDANIANS APPARENTLY THINKING OF CHAPARRAL WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY A NAVY SIDE-WINDER MISSILE MODIFIED FOR GROUND-TO-AIR USE. WE ESTIMATE THAT FOUR BATTERIES OF CHAPARRAL (48 FIRING UNITS/1000 MISSILES) WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 70 MILLION AS OPPOSED TO DOLLARS 110 MILLION FOR AN EQUIVALENT QUANTITY (ONE BATTALION) OF IMPROVED HAWK. LEAD TIMES FOR THE TWO SYSTEMS ARE ON THE ORDER OF THREE YEARS.

2. AS EXPLAINED TO JAF DELEGATION IN DECEMBER, CHAPARRAL IS DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN; WHILE SOMEWHAT CHEAPER THAN HAWK IT IS EFFECTIVE ONLY AT MUCH LOWER ALTITUDES AND MUCH SHORTER RANGES. HAWK HAS SUPERIOR AREA COVERAGE, AND THUS WE BELIEVE IS MORE SUITED TO HIGHEST PRIORITY AIR DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR DEFENSE OF STRATEGIC AREAS. (FYI. THIS

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JUDGMENT IS MADE, OF COURSE, WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF AN AIR

DEFENSE SURVEY. ALSO RELEVANT IS FACT THAT CHAPARRAL, LIKE CROTALE AND ROLAND, IS A FULLY MOBILE POINT DEFENSIVE SYSTEM WHICH IS HIGHLY SUITED TO AN OFFENSIVE ROLE. FROM A POLICY STANDPOINT WE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS

ABOUT SUITABILITY OF ANY OF THESE THREE SYSTEMS FOR JORDAN. WE PARTICULARLY DO NOT WANT TO PUT OURSELVES IN POSITION OF PROVIDING JORDANIANS WITH APPRAISAL OF FOREIGN SYSTEMS SUCH AS CROTALE AND ROLAND. END FYI)

3. QUESTION OF OUR POLICY RE: PROVISION OF REDEYE TO MIDEAST STATES IS VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE. IF PRESSURED ON THIS POINT, SUGGEST YOU STAND ON YOUR PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT WE NOT PRESENTLY MAKING THIS WEAPON AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL OR ARAB COUNTRIES. SISCO

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NNN

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